



NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY



STOCK SHOW VISITORS

Governor Noem and Lt. Governor Rhoden took time out of their busy schedule to stop by the VA Black Hills Health Care System booth at the Black Hills Stock Show this weekend.

The Governor and Lt. Governor visited with veterans and the VABHHCS staff and thanked them for their service.



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On Valentines Day,
please remember our veterans,
their families, and
our troops that are currently
serving!

COFFEE WITH THE DIRECTOR

The Department of Veterans Affairs Black Hills Health Care System (VABHHCS) will host an informal time for “Coffee with the Director.”

Coffee with the Director will be held on February 11th at Fort Meade and February 12th at Hot Springs. Veterans are encouraged to stop by and enjoy a cup of coffee and light refreshments with the Medical Center Director and staff.

“All Veterans and their families are encouraged to come out and bring questions or concerns about VA health care,” said Sandra Horsman, VABHHCS Director. “Meeting face to face is a great way to learn about what is working well and ways we can improve our services.”

Logistics are as follows:

February 11, 2020, from 2:00—3:00 pm (MT) in the lobby of Building 113 in Fort Meade.

February 12, 2020, from 1:00—2:00 pm (MT) ground floor lobby in Building 12 in Hot Springs.

For more information about this event, please contact VABHHCS Public Affairs Officer Teresa Forbes, at (605) 720-7451.



SALUTE TO VETERAN PATIENTS WEEK

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will honor hospitalized veterans at VA medical centers, clinics and facilities nationwide from Feb. 9-15 during [National Salute to Veteran Patients](#).

This annual observation gives all Americans the chance to thank the more than 9 million veterans who receive care from the VA through volunteering and creating Valentines cards.

“The VA values the contributions of volunteers, donors, and partners that help us keep the promise to America’s Veterans,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “I encourage more people to reach out to their local VA facility and find ways to volunteer not only during the National Salute to Veteran Patients, all year long.”

Each year, volunteers from schools, community groups, and youth organizations nationwide send more than 100,000 Valentine’s cards to VA medical centers for National Salute to Veteran Patients. The VA aims to increase awareness of each VA medical center by encouraging citizens to visit hospitalized veterans, volunteer their time, or donate to their local VA facilities.

In 2019, more than 61,000 volunteers provided more than 9.2 million total volunteer hours serving veterans through VA’s Voluntary Service.



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA AIDS MIDWEST HONOR FLIGHT

The tradition of laying wreaths to honor our veterans during the holiday season began in 1992, when Morrill Worcester of Worcester Wreath Company (Harrington, Maine) was left with a number of extra wreaths at the close of the holiday season. Remembering a boyhood trip to the Nation's Capital, and the sacred grounds of Arlington National Cemetery, he donated 5,000 wreaths to be placed at the headstones of an older section of the cemetery.

What began as one man's gesture, has now grown into a national movement - when in 2007 Wreaths Across America was formed as a non-profit. Today, more than 1,800 locations participate on a Saturday in December in laying the wreaths out of remembrance and respect for our nation's brave servicemen and women.

Midwest Honor Flight partners with National Wreaths Across America, Arlington National Cemetery, as well as numerous cemeteries in Iowa and South Dakota. For every \$15 wreath sponsored through the Midwest Honor Flight site, regardless of which location the wreath is sponsored towards, Midwest Honor Flight receives \$5 back towards their future missions. These donations are tax-deductible.

The following cemeteries have partnered with Honor Flight's fundraising efforts: Arlington National Cemetery, Iowa Veterans Cemetery, Black Hills National Cemetery, Hot Springs National Cemetery, Fort Meade National Cemetery, Memory Gardens Cemetery (Sioux Center) and Hills of Rest Memorial Park (Sioux Falls).

In 2019, more than 600 wreaths were sponsored through Midwest Honor Flight raising more than \$3,000 for upcoming Missions.

SOUTH DAKOTA WOMEN'S VOTE CELEBRATION

The South Dakota Women's Vote Celebration has a new Facebook page you might want to follow.

<https://www.facebook.com/SDWomensVote/>



MIDWEST HONOR FLIGHT

A "Valentines for Veterans" prime rib dinner will be held in Alton, Iowa on Saturday, February 8, 2020 from 5:00—7:00 pm (CT) at the Sioux Golf and Country Club in Alton, Iowa.

Proceeds will benefit Midwest Honor Flight. Tickets are \$25 each and include prime rib, two sides, a drink and dessert! There will be a cash bar available, as well as a silent auction, games, and Midwest Honor Flight promo items available.

Includes an informational talk given by Aaron Van Beek, president and director of Midwest Honor Flight.

Reserve your tickets today by calling 712-756-4513.

American Legion Post 276 in Ireton, IA, will host a fundraiser dinner for Midwest Honor Flight on Saturday, March 28



The dinner will be held at the Ireton Community Center from 5:00 pm—7:00 pm.

Advance tickets are required and are \$10 each. Tickets can be reserved by calling: Jim Huenink (Commander) 712-552-7775
Randall Westergard 712-551-7930
Marlin Eilts 712-441-0723.

On Sunday, April 26, the Rock Rapids American Legion and VFW Posts will host a pancake feed at the Forster Community Center in Rock Rapids from 10:00 am—1:00 pm. (CT).



SUNDAY, APRIL 26 / 10 AM - 1 PM

PANCAKE FEED

Forster Community Center
404 Main Street
Rock Rapids, IA

**FREE WILL
DONATION FOR:**







**MIDWEST
HONOR FLIGHT**





**HOSTED BY THE
ROCK RAPIDS
AMERICAN LEGION
& VFW POSTS**





VIETNAM VETERAN ERA VETERANS
CELEBRATION
DAKOTA MAGIC CASINO CONVENTION CENTER 1-800-325-6825
MONDAY ~ 30TH MARCH 2020
11:30 - 1:30PM

**UNITED VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF THE SISSETON WAHPETON
 OYATE WILL BE HOSTING A VIETNAM ERA VETERAN CELEBRA-
 TION BY SERVING A MEAL TO THE VIETNAM ERA VETERANS AND
 A GUEST AT DAKOTA MAGIC CASINO CONVENTION CENTER AT
 NOON**

**WE WILL HAVE ERA MUSIC PLAYED AND VIETNAM VETERAN
 BUTCH FELIX ALSO SHARING SOME MUSIC.**



**WE WILL HAVE DISCOUNTED ROOMS AVAILABLE IF YOU CHOSE
 TO STAY OVER NIGHT. (\$42.00)BLOCKNAME: VIETNAM VETS**

**WE ALSO WANT TO HONOR OUR KIA'S AS WELL AS OUR 192
 SOUTH DAKOTAN'S THAT LOST THEIR LIVES IN VIETNAM.**




**IF YOU ARE A VETERAN OF THE VIETNAM ERA CONFLICT PLEASE
 TAKE THE TIME OUT OF YOUR DAY—WE WANT TO HONOR YOUR
 SERVICE TO OUR GREAT COUNTRY!**

**BRING A GUEST—AND WE ARE ASKING IF YOU HAVE A PICTURE
 OF YOURSELF IN YOUR UNIFORM PLEASE BRING IT OR CONTACT
 OUR OFFICE WE WOULD LOVE TO DISPLAY IT THIS DAY.**

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: GERI OPSAL 698-3388 OR 268-0502

**The menu will be prime rib & fish, salad,
 potatoes & gravy & green beans & cake.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 8—Midwest Honor Flight Prime Rib Dinner Fundraiser - Sioux Golf—Alton, IA—5:00—7:00 pm (CT)
 Feb 9—VABHHCS Four Chaplains Service—St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church—Sturgis (1049 Howard Street) - 1:30 pm (MT)
 Feb 10—State American Legion Legislative Reception—AL Post 8—Pierre—5:30—8:00 pm (CT)
 Feb 11—Coffee with VABHHCS Director—Fort Meade—Lobby of Bldg 113—2:00—3:00 pm (MT)
 Feb 11—USDA BHNH Veterans Hiring Event—Mystic Ranger District Office (8221 Mt. Rushmore Road) Rapid City—3:00—5:00 pm (MT) and 8:00—10:00 pm (MT)
 Feb 12—Coffee with VABHHCS Director—Hot Springs—Ground Floor Lobby of Bldg 12—1:00—2:00 pm (MT)
 Feb 21-23—American Legion Mid Winter Conference—Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center—Oacoma
 Mar 4—VABHHCS Art Show—Fort Meade VA Campus—Building 145 Classroom 109—1:00 pm (MT)
 Mar 6—Drop-In Legal Service for Veterans—DAV Sioux Falls Chapter—1519 W. 51st Street—9:00 am—3:00 pm (CT)
 Mar 11—VABHHCS Art Show—Hot Springs VA Campus—Building 1 Rotunda—1:00 pm (MT)
 Mar 13—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—VFW Post 1273—Rapid City—10:00 am (MT)
 Mar 24—Culvers Day of Giving for Midwest Honor Flight
 Mar 25—SD Veterans Council Meeting—PVA Headquarters—Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CT)
 Mar 27-29—SD Vietnam and Era Veterans Reunion—Dakota Sioux Casino—Watertown
 Mar 20—SWO Vietnam Veterans Celebration—Dakota Magic Casino—11:30 am—1:30 pm (CT)
 Apr 26—Midwest Honor Flight Pancake Feed Fundraiser—Forster Community Center—Rock Rapids, IA—10:00 (CT)
 May 8—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—Domiciliary Auditorium—Hot Springs VAMC—10:00 am (MT)
 May 12—8th Annual WWII Veterans Luncheon—TREA Building—Rapid City—11:00 am (MT)
 May 15-17—DAV State Convention—Brookings
 May 21-22—PVA Annual Fishing Tournament—Chamberlain
 May 25—MJFSVH Memorial Day Car Show—MJFSVH Campus—Hot Springs—11:30 am—3:00 pm (MT)
 May 30—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 7
 June 3-7—VFW State Convention—Aberdeen
 Jun 18-21—American legion State Convention—Huron
 Jul 10—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—Bldg. 145—Room 108—Fort Meade VAMC—10:00 am (MT)
 Aug 24-27—SDDVA Annual Benefit School—Ramkota Conference Center—Pierre
 Sep 3—Veterans Day at the SD State Fair
 Sep 3-7—SD State Fair
 Sep 10—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 8 (Tentative)
 Sep 11—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—VFW Post 1273—Rapid City—10:00 am (MT)
 Oct 11—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 9 (Tentative)
 Nov 13—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—Domiciliary Auditorium—Hot Springs VAMC—10:00 am (MT)

Audry Ricketts, Public Information Officer

South Dakota Department of the Military <http://military.sd.gov>

South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs <http://vetaffairs.sd.gov>

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